photo by Justin Rochefort

Ventilation shafted

by Jennifer Ditchburn

Despite regular complaints about the air quality in the Hall building, the ventilation won't be getting any better. Concordia's administration announced last week that it would be turning off ventilation systems during after-hours to cut energy costs.

Max Barlow, associate vice-rector of Services, says the changes are not expected to "jeopardize health and safety."

"If people are going to be there for a long time it might get stuffy since there's less air circulating," Barlow said.

Hall employees not consulted

But some Concordia employees are more skeptical about how good the air quality will be if the ventilation is turned off at night.

Helen Bambic-Workman, head of the Multimedia Interactive Technology Environment (MITE) on the third floor, has sent faculty and staff a questionnaire asking them how they feel about air quality in the Hall building.

Yesterday, people working on the third-floor had to be evacuated due to foul-smelling fumes that were circulating through the ventilation system.

"We feel very strongly about this—we felt people in the Hall building needed a forum to say what they felt about the decision," Bambic-Workman said. So far, she has received 28 completed questionnaires.

Bambic-Workman meanwhile isn't convinced that merely turning on the ventilation system in the morning will help clean the air.

"From time to time we get headaches working here. The air gets really stuffy and we have to get out of the office," she said. "It usually takes until noon for the bloody thing [ventilation system] to function."

Susan Magor, director of environmental health and safety, says there's no question the decision will affect how people work in the Hall building.

"I'm not terribly happy about this, but it's one of the compromises we'll have to make to meet the budgetary constraints," Magor said. "I'm not very concerned with safety as long as the necessary precautions are taken."

Biology and Chemistry students affected

The change in ventilation schedule will have the biggest impact on biology and chemistry staff and students who regularly work with toxic substances nights and weekends. Magor says that activities using volatile organic compounds will take place under fume hoods, devices which suck dangerous chemicals out of the area.

Even with the fume hoods, which have always been used in the chemistry and biology labs, Patrick Gulick, chair of the biohazardous committee, is not convinced that there will be no safety risks.

"We haven't assessed the situation yet, but it doesn't look good to me," Gulick said. "People work in the labs at all hours of all days, and we don't feel very comfortable with the ventilation being shut off."

Gulick, who says he was not consulted about the decision, sees many students and researchers working long hours on experiments. Occasionally he says experiments can take up to 16 hours of non-stop observation.

"The problem is the Hall building already has a general problem with air quality," Gulick added. "It's just going to get worse."

Guatemala still plagued by human rights abuse: Montreal group

By Derek Fong

Guatemala is a democracy of the lowest common denominator. Its government was elected by the eight percent of the population who turned out to vote in last year's elections. According to Montreal's Social Justice Committee, the country is still plagued by severe human rights abuse and its citizens fear for their lives.

Six members of the committee went to Guatemala on a fact-finding mission to assess the quality of life in a country formerly ruled by a military junta. During their trip, they listened to frightened people telling their stories of human rights abuses.

"Certainly a number of people associated with human rights there expressed fear," said Ernie Schibli, the leader of the trip.

He added that despite having a democratically-elected government after years of oppressive military rule, people still fear for their lives.

Schibli said many Guatemalans don't have any faith in their democratically-elected government.

"Basically, the whole (electoral) process has been repudiated by the people," Schibli continued.

He noted that only about eight per cent of Guatemalans turned out to vote in the country's last elections.

Death squads still active

Guatemalans don't talk about politics because they are afraid something will happen to them or their loved ones.

While the people fear reprisals for speaking out against the government, it is not the government which carries out the kidnappings and murders. Those tasks are left to the death squads which are still very active in Guatemala.

"The government itself has very little power," Schibli said.

Marc Benetau, another member of the committee, agrees.

As it was his first visit to Guatamala, he expected to find a police state with army patrols in the streets and government control of the media. Instead, he discovered a more invisible type of repression.

"It's more like anarchy than being a police state," he observed.

"It's more of a facade than anything else," he added, suggesting the democratic government exists to appease the international community while the military controls behind the scenes.

Both Schibli and Benetau listened to villagers who were speaking out about their experiences at a meeting with Minugua, the United Nations mission which investigates human rights abuses in Guatemala.

At first, they were hesitant, Schibli noted, but gradually they opened up. At least 50 people spoke to officials about their negative experiences with the government.

"They all spoke in terms of how bad the human rights situation is," he said.

Benetau recalled the testimonial of a woman whose son had been killed by a car last September and whose husband went missing two months later.

Her husband was the head of a Guatemalan human rights association. It is believed the government abducted him.

"This is very typical there," Benetau said, citing statistics which suggest 80 people disappear every month in Guatemala.

The kidnappings and murders are almost a fact of life, Benetau added. Guatemalans don't talk about politics because they are afraid something will happen to them or their loved ones.

People have become sensitized to the violence, he added. "It's in the back of their mind all the time."

The Social Justice Committee also met with Conavigua, the National Council of Guatemalan Widows.

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the Link

Concordia's Independent Newspaper

Tuesday February 7, 1995
Concordia University

Volume 15, Number 30
Montreal, Quebec

AGENDA

The Agenda is a free service to publicize events of interest to the Concordia community. Priority is given to non-profit and student groups. Drop off your info at our office, room H-649 in the Hall building, or mail it, to *the Link*–Agenda. Deadlines are 4pm, Friday for Tuesday issues, and 4 pm Wednesday for Friday issues.

Tuesday, February 7

Help Make a Difference!! Sign and circulate a petition demanding a change in the wording of the Quebec Referendum question. All day, Hall Lobby. Continues to Feb. 10.

Free Tetanus Immunization Clinic at SGW and Loyola Health Services. Make sure your tetanus immunization is updated every 10 years. FREE. 9:30-11 am.

Movie Nite with the PSSA, featuring *Small is Beautiful: Impressions of Fritz Schumacker* at 12 pm, H-537 and *And the Band Played On* at 8:30 pm. $1.50 per film.

µCue Series 13.7 & 13.8 Electroacoustic Concerts. 8 pm, Loyola Concert Hall, Free.

Wednesday, February 8

Healthy Weights, a workshop presented by Health Services as part of Eating Disorders Awareness Week. 12 noon, H-653.

"Who Represents You?" a panel discussion featuring former NDP leader Audrey McLaughlin, former Conservative MP David MacDonald, Madeleine Parent of the National Action Committee & Monique Simard, Vice-President of the Parti Quebecois. 5:30 pm, de Seve Cinema, 1400 de Maisonneuve West.

Sociology and Anthropology Students' Union General Meeting. 8 pm, LB 671-5.

Thursday, February 9

Guatemala: A Hope Betrayed–video and oral presentation presented by the Social Justice Committee. 7:30 pm, Ascension of our Lord Church Rectory. Info: 933-6797.

Friday, February 10

Introduction to Internet, E-mail etc. sponsored by the Iranian Students' Association. 6 pm, 2010 Mackay. Info: 848-3537.

Leisure and the Family, with speakers Dr. Sue Shaw of the University of Waterloo & Dalhousie's Dr. Colleen Hood. 9 am-1 pm. Registration from 8:30. DL200. Info: 848-3330

Choeur Maha Valentine's Day Cabaret featuring love songs from the Middle Ages to Motown with Montreal's premiere all-women choir. 8 pm, 4001 Berri. Suggested Donation: $5. Info: 844-6688.

Sunday, February 12

Skating at Beaver Lake with the Psychology Students' Association. Info: 848-7466.

Tuesday, February 14

"Identity Politics and the Challenge of Sovereignty," a brown-bag forum with Professor Daniel Salée. 12 noon, 2149 Mackay, Basement.

"Citizen, Tribalism and the New World Disorder," a public lecture by Matthew Horsman, editor of Policy Options and co-author of *After the Nation State.* 6 pm, 2149 Mackay, Basement Lounge.

WOMEN

Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Coming Out/ Support Group (18 to 25 yrs). Meets every second Wednesday. Info: Project 10, 989-4585 (1 to 5 pm).

SOS Violence conjugale. 24 hour crisis intervention and shelter referral. 873-9010.

Mouvement contre le viol: 842-5040.

24 Hour Hotline & Crisis Line, Montreal Sexual Assault Centre, 934-4504.

Montréal Assault Prevention Centre offers a self-defense course called ACTION for women. Techniques to help women deal with any type of aggression. To register call: 284-1212.

Centre des femmes de Montréal: Services de première ligne, 842-4780; Service aux femmes immigrantes, 842-0814; Option'Elle, 842-6652; Formation'Elle, 842-4776.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre provides free counselling and emotional support, medical assessment and treatment, information on police and court procedures, court accompaniment, support groups for survivors and public education on sexual assault issues. Info: 934-4504.

Centre for AIDS Services for Women needs volunteers. Info: 954-0170, Basia.

Women's Spirituality: Irrepressible Spirit A series of videos and discussions exploring women's perspectives and experiences within various religious traditions. Tuesdays from 4:15-6 pm, Z-105.

Committee Against Human Life International: Women interested in planning a protest against the Montreal conference of this racist, anti-Muslim, anti-semitic, homophobic, anti-choice organization can leave messages for the committee against Human Life International at the Concordia Women's Centre, 848-7431.

Minority Women in Academe: information sessions conducted by Dr. Shahrzad Mojab about her research project of the same name.Sessions also offer support for minority women. Info: Dr. Mojab, 848-2270.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre needs volunteers for its 24 hour telephone crisis line. Concerned, bilingual women should call 934-4504, 934-9354.

Free Films for Women / Wimmin / Womyn presented by the Concordia Women's Centre on Monday nights this semester. For dates, times and titles call the Centre at 848-7431.

Big Gals & Goddesses, wanna talk? A discussion group for big women . Whether you wear dresses or overalls, nylons or not. For info, call Anuska at the Women's Centre: 848-7431.

ACADEMIC

Term Papers and written assignments? We can help you get started, organize ideas, identify problem areas. Counselling & Development: 848-3545.

Free tutoring available to students who fail the University Writing test. Info: 848-2320.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Self-Knowing & Communication, a three-part afternoon workshop series to explore self-understanding, giving and receiving feedback, conflict styles an communication skills, starting Feb. 10. Pre-registration Info: Daryl Lynn Ross, 848-3585.

Sign-language courses at the Montreal Deaf Community Centre. Placement tests are required. 65 de Castelnau. Info: TTY: 279-8535.

Sex and Spirit Collective a social justice group attempting to heal the divisions between our sexual and spiritual identities. Thursdays 4-6 pm, 2090 Mackay.

Parents Without Custody is a support group for separated or divorced parents without custody of their children. Call Nancy Montgomery,937-5351, local 48 to register.

Peer Helpers is a free, confidential listening service of students helping students. 2090 Mackay St. Info: 848-2859.

Meditation: A Tool For Self-Knowledge. These sessions will draw upon various traditions and each will include a "quiet sitting". Wednesdays 12-1 pm, Annex Z. Info: Daryl Ross, 848-3585.

Questioning your sexual orientation? Coming Out support group for men, confidential and friendly atmosphere. Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, 2090 Mackay, Room 02. For information or individual support call the Peer Helper Centre, 848-2859.

Sign up now for workshops on communication skills, career & life planning, building relationships, study skills, loss and grieving support groups etc. For information, call Counselling & Development, 848-3545/3555.

Start Keeping a Budget: Financial Aid & Awards offers personal budgeting information sessions on Mondays at 3 pm & Tuesdays at 11am. Please sign up in advance in the Financial Aid office LB -085.

"Living On My Own" a program for people planning to live on their own for the first time. Info: Bruce, Head & Hands: 481-0277 or 481-3643.

MEDIA

Extra-rated Radio Show seeks spoken word/ poetry/ opinion submissions to read on air. Please drop them off at the station addressed to Rae. Information: 931-1880, 933-1418. No limits.

CRSG, downtown student radio station seeks groovy people for all kinds of jobs. 848-7401.

Ham Radio Meetings every Tuesday. Personal two-way radio, television, UHF/VHF, satellite and computer communications by ham radio. All Welcome. 7 to 9 pm, H-644-1. Info: 848-7474.

HEALTH

Non-Nominal HIV Testing. The request for the test as well as the result are known only to your doctor. Info: Health Services, 848-3565, 848-3575.

Women and safer sex: A series of two-hour workshops to explore some of the issues that affect our choices about safer sex, including self-esteem, sexuality, and body image. Info: Leah or Diana, Concordia Women's Centre, 848-7431.

GENERAL

Yellow Door Elderly Project needs volunteers to accompany seniors to appointments. Also looking for dog walkers who can assist seniors in the McGill Ghetto. Info: 398-6243.

Compeer Montreal, a community service which provides friendship and support to people with mental health problems, is recruiting volunteers 18 years or older to provide re-integration services to persons with mental illnesses. Info: 489-1007.

Tel-Aide needs volunteers to staff its telephone crisis line for people in distress. The line operates 24 hours a day, lending a sympathetic ear to Montrealers who are lonely, abused, out of work, emotionally scarred or suicidal. Info: 935-1105.

Prison Visit Program: An eight-week program , in which students visit inmates at Archambault Prison. Info: Peter Coté, 848-3586, Matti Terho, 848-3590

Outreach Experience: participants will work with children, teens, the poor or the sick. The activity and amount of time will depend on your interests and abilities. Information: Michelina Bertone SSA, 848-3591.

Meals On Wheels Program is seeking volunteers to assist in preparing and delivering home cooked meals for seniors living independently at home. Info: Rona 937-9471 (155)

Care to listen to those who need to talk? Shalom line will be accepting new volunteers into their winter training program which starts in February Call Suzanne Herscovitch at 735-3541, ext. 3380.

STUDENT CLUBS

Indigenous Peoples International, a native solidarity group on campus meets every Wednesday, 7 pm, P-203. Info: 848-7443.

Concordia Queer Collective holds weekly meetings on Fridays at 5:30 pm in P-102. Information: 848-7414.

Latin American Students Organization invites all interested students to visit their offices. 2010 Mackay, Rm. 02. Info: 848-3532.

International Socialists Students' Association: If you'd like to become a member, or want information about meetings, actions, etc. Contact: 521-1983.

Concordia Outdoors Club's new office hours are Fridays between 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm.

Concordia Chemistry & Biochemistry Students Assoc. is back and invites students to take advantage of its many new services. 2020 Mackay,Rm. 306 or call 848-7417.

Interested in paganism & witchcraft? Concordia Pagan Society is looking for new members. Come check us out every Monday night 9pm in the Hive.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Rates: 20¢ per word for Concordia Arts & Science and Fine Arts undergraduate students; 25¢ per word for all others (plus applicable taxes). Deadlines are 4pm Friday for Tuesday issues, 4pm Wednesday for Friday issues. Classified advertising must be purchased in our offices in room H-649. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. Ads must be accompanied by full payment. We do NOT take classified ads by phone, fax, or mail.

TYPING

Success to all students! WordPerfect 5.1. Term papers, résumés, access forms, applications, editing of grammar. 24 years experience—both languages, 7 days a week. $1.75/double-spaced page. 2 streets away, Peel. Paulette or Roxanne, 288-9638, 288-0016.

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Typing - $1,25/page. WP 5.1 , Pick up, deliver, downtown/Loyola. 482-2816. Walter.

Typing–W.P. 5.1, laser printer, spelling, minor editing. $1.50/ page. 487-5787.

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SERVICES

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Singing Lessons: Classical technique frees your natural voice. Experienced teacher, reasonable rates. all musical styles. 271-8322.

Mathematics, statistics, computer science tutor. 278-7499.

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Furniture Sale: round table (white melamine), shelf/ wall unit (white), soft-touch couch (mint green) and halogen lamp. Reasonable prices. Call 845-5991 for information.

Perfect for Students!!! Double futon & base, natural pine wood, 6 inch mattress, multicolored. Guaranteed new, $150. Tel: 735-7009.

Book Sale: 50% off on most books at the Academic and General Bookshop, 385 Sherbrooke St. West. 849-3833. Owner is retiring at the end of March.

Parking: 2 cars (small). Mackay & Ste-Catherine. $70 (monthly) each. 935-3113.

Everything must sell!! Need anything? Call and see. (Furniture, kitchen-ware etc.)Tout doit être vendu. Besoin de quelques-choses? (meubles, vaisellerie etc.) Appelez pour voir. 381-9456.

APARTMENTS

Lofts in Old Montreal, close to Metro Victoria. Heated, sprinklered, high ceilings, low rent. 861-3787.

LEISURE & RECREATION

Cuba Spring Break only $685! Airfare, visa, hotel, transfers to hotel and back. Sunny Varadero. 2 per room. 10 universities invited, Feb. 19-26. Bookings, 935-6029, 989-1017.

New York Bed & Breakfast. $20 per person, Double occupancy. $12, dormitory of 4-6 persons. Just North of Central Park. Gisèle, 1-212-666-0559.

HELP WANTED

Seeking first-generation Canadians for Documentary Television Project. Both parents should be from same country. For information, call Hanna at 528-0759.

Tree Planting: BC Spring '95. Experienced foreman seeking experienced planters or dedicated rookies. Call Joe weekdays 12-5pm. 278-4645, Leave message.

We need help! (Part-time) Fast-growing company seeks erious outgoing people to be trained as consultants. Call Mr. Masters, 484-4197 or Mr. Reddock, 486-0469.

WANTED

Wanted: Talented writers for short essays. Please call Valerie, 737-7410.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Run your own business, gain valuable business experience while building your resumé. Earn up to $10,000 (25 jobs), high demand product, irrigation sales and installation. The ideal opportunity: vehicle required. Call Student Sprinklers at 1-800-265-7691.

Career Opportunity: As a representative for one of Canada's leading insurance companies, we seek university graduates with work experience. Excellent training, fringe benefits, unlimited income potential and advancement opportunities. Resumés to: Kent and Barb Elvidge, 2 Place Alexis Nihon, Suite 1200, Westmount, Quebec, H3Z 3C1. Fax: 939-1940.

GENERAL

Graduate Student get-togethers with the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. Dean Martin Kusy would like to meet with graduate students this year on an informal basis. A session has been arranged for this purpose from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at our Graduate Administration Offices, 2145 Mackay Street, on Monday, February 13, 1995. Our space is limited. Please reserve one of the above dates by contacting Ms. Kali Sakell at 848-3803. We look forward to seeing you.

LOST

Gold-imitation oval-shaped dangling earring with flower design.If found, call Shira: 488-7673.

Two books, *High Points in Anthrpology* and *Cultures Around the World.* Call Theo, 598-6132.

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Interested in Alcoholism?
Seeking volunteers for an alcoholism-related study conducted in the laboratory of Dr. Zalman Amit at Concordia University.
For further information, call: 486-3018 (leave message.)

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Link staff meeting—Friday at 4 pm. 4:30 in Newfoundland. (h649)

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African Studies on backburner

by Robin Perelle

(CUP)-While other area-study programs at McGill University wallow in million-dollar endowments, the African Studies Program must struggle just to stay afloat.

Last spring, McGill's African Studies steering committee sparked student outrage when they tried to replace the major degree with a minor. The committee said the decision was made due to a lack of resources Meanwhile, weeks later, a new Institute for Canadian Studies was created when representatives from McGill's Faculty of Arts made a ten million dollar deal with Canadian billionaire Charles Bronfman

McGill Political Science Professor Samuel Noumoff expressed concern about the university's priorities. He insisted that the study of Africa must not slip from the curriculum. He suggested that the expansion of Canadian Studies should serve as an impetus to McGill to find funds for other important programs.

Canadian Studies Professor Richard Schultz said that while the Canadian Studies program used to be "run on a shoestring," the new Institute can now afford to bring in "all the movers and shakers" from across the country for one-day seminars.

The experience of students in McGill's African Studies is a world apart. In the last few years, the Program has fought dwindling resources and numerous attempts by McGill professors to pull the plug.

Just last semester, the Anthropology Department's reluctance to hire another African Studies Professor further reduced the number of African-content courses available to students, jeopardizing the survival of the entire program.

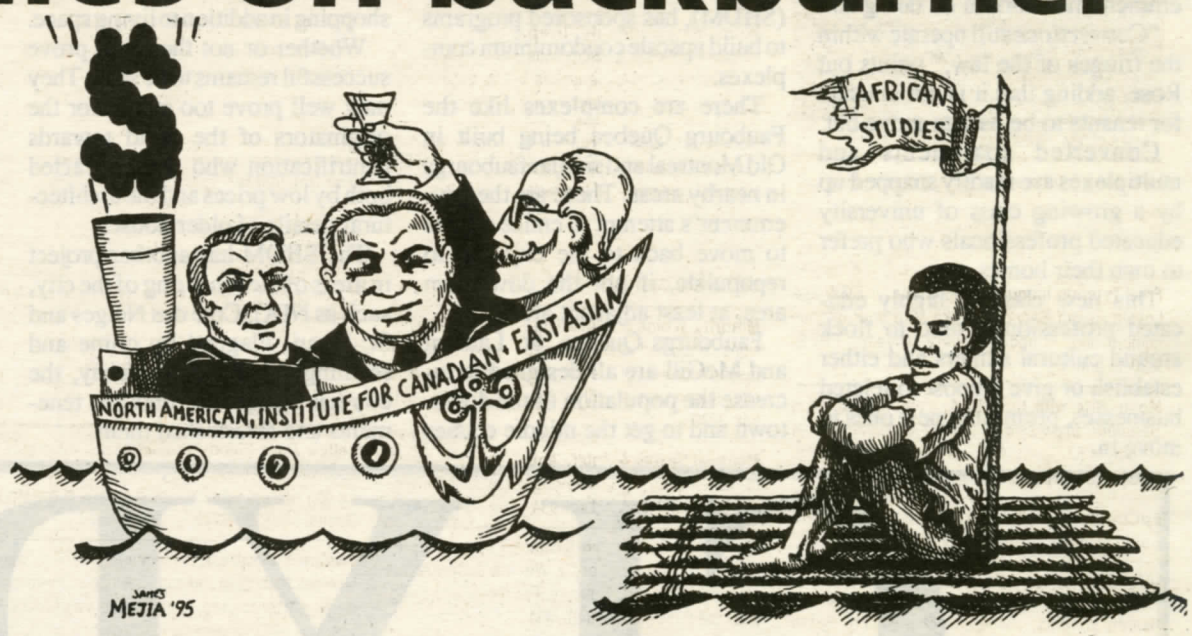
"It's ironic to find ten million dollars for [the study of Canada] while African Studies still doesn't have the bare minimums like a description in Course Calendar, an office, a secretary, or even advisors capable of advising," said Mebrat Beyene, the cultural coordinator of McGill's Black Students' Network (BSN).

"McGill should make it a priority to solicit funds for African Studies," Noumoff agreed.

Program directors unwilling to search for funds

Ironically, the increasing shortage of resources in African Studies coincides with a general expansion of other area-study programs at McGill.

Professor Robin Yates is the Chair of McGill's interdisciplinary East Asian Studies Program, which offers students a major, a minor, honours, joint honours and may soon add a research facility for graduate studies on the list. He said the trick to survival lies in program directors taking the initiative in the search for funds, and enumerated the steps he follows to get donations.



"We try to find foundations that will support our research, and then we work with McGill's development offices to try to identify donors interested in supporting McGill," he said.

"We are fortunate to have had support from a number of organizations such as the Korean Business Association and the Japan Foundation, which supports the acquisition of teachers and materials every year. These foundations have supported us to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars," he continued.

The expansion in the East Asian Studies program of McGill, which last year was promoted to the status of a department, seems to indicate that Yates has hit on a successful formula. It also raises the question of why the directors of African Studies have not undertaken similar fundraising projects.

But the Chair of the African Studies Program, Professor Myron Echenberg, insisted that fundraising is not in his job description.

Astrid Jacques, Political Coordinator of the BSN, was not impressed. "I'm very concerned that the Chair is not taking enough interest in the Program that he's supposed to be heading," she said.

Beyene shared her concern. "First of all, finding resources means commitment. Second, it's inaccurate to portray Montreal or Canada as not having any resources or commitment to African Studies. Rather the lack of resources shows McGill's inactivity in looking for those resources," she said.

Echenberg claimed that African Studies is in a less favorable than East Asian Studies when it comes to finding external support. "Africa doesn't have a really successful First World country like Japan to turn to for assistance," he said.

Jacques vehemently disagreed, insisting that Echenberg hasn't made a real effort to find resources in Canada.

"Montreal should be the perfect centre for African Studies because of the number of African scholars, especially French African scholars from French West Africa that have immigrated to Canada," she said.

"We as students will be obliged to look for these resources since it looks like neither the program administrators nor the Faculty of Arts are willing to search for the funds themselves," Jacques continued.

Beyene agreed. "We had hoped that the Chair would have been more responsive to the needs of African Studies, and especially to the concerns of students enrolled in the major program," she said.

African Studies not a high priority at McGill

Many students enrolled in the African Studies program feel that the insufficient number of courses available, listed in a tiny box on one page in McGill's Course Calendar is ignoring their needs.

A glaring example of the inadequacies of the Program is the fact that the history of the entire African continent was condensed into a single course by the history department. In contrast, many countries in Europe are allocated entire semesters to deal with specific periods of their development.

"In the African history course they try to go from the Iron Age all the way down to the post-colonial period, all across the second largest continent in the world, in just one year," said Jacques.

"You can find some obscure courses on Roman Literature in 1820-something, but ask to have a course on West Africa and you won't find one," concurred Beyene.

The shortage of courses dealing with Africa is especially surprising since students have consistently displayed a keen interest in learning about the area. Only three years ago, members of the BSN worked very hard to broaden the curriculum of African Studies to include members of the African diaspora in such areas as the Caribbean.

Beyene recalled that the students did extensive research, accumulating information about McGill's structure and the resources at other universities which have managed to support more expansive African Studies programs. Finally they submitted a comprehensive 40-page proposal to the university, to no avail. "It was basically treated as a fluff paper, presumably read and then cast off," she said.

Until a serious attempt is made to solicit external donations for African Studies, students can only hope

continued on page 11

Engineering tutorial system should be revised

by Danny Chan

Mark Cloutier wants to initiate change within Concordia's faculty of engineering and computer science. Cloutier, a first-year mechanical engineering student, is trying to improve the tutorial system offered within the faculty.

"A lot of students didn't show up to the tutorials because they weren't getting anything out of it," said Cloutier. "The teaching assistant [person who conducts the tutorials] has his own agenda. Only a third of the students showed up at the end of the course."

Currently within Concordia's engineering faculty, most first- and second-year undergraduate courses offer tutorials as part of the curriculum. The weekly tutorials last 50 minutes and are usually taught by graduate engineering students. But Cloutier finds fault in both these points.

According to Cloutier, 50 minutes of tutorials per week is insufficient. He also believes some courses can have their tutorials combined into a longer session because of the similarity between the two courses, thereby eliminating repetition. Cloutier gave electricity and calculus as examples of two courses with repetition.

Also, Cloutier thinks the tutorials should be taught not by graduate students but by undergrads. According to Dr. Donat Taddeo, dean of the engineering and computer science faculty, graduate students are given first priority for teaching assistant positions. But Cloutier said many graduate engineering students are more preoccupied with writing theses, and are unprepared for tutorials.

"It's like graduate students say 'I've been told this is what I should tell you and nothing more'," said Cloutier. In addition to the attitude from grad students, Cloutier said they are out of touch with the concerns of undergrads.

Cloutier has collected 100 names in a petition calling for a tutorial survey. He hopes to present it to the Engineering and Computer Science Students' Association (ECA) next week.

In the survey, Cloutier wants to determine what engineering undergrads really want from their tutorials. Such concerns as accessibility of teaching assistants, combining tutorials for similar courses and the weekly number of tutorial hours for a course are all matters that interest him. Most importantly, Cloutier wants to determine if students are willing to incur tuition increases to finance more tutorials.

The survey would call for the creation of a Committee on Tutorial Services and Cloutier hopes this committee would commence operations immediately so that changes could be implemented by next fall.

ECA president Daniel Leibu said the student union has already determined that the quality of tutorials is "poor," and that they are aware a problem exists. A recent finding stated teaching assistants are "underpaid and not very effective," according to Leibu.

"You can't expect people to put in the hours (for such a wage)," said Leibu.

Added Dean Taddeo, "There is a problem in the pay scales....The rate of pay is not very interesting for this." He said in the faculty, $500,000 is allotted for paying such faculty-assistance personnel as graders, lab demonstrators, and teaching assistants.

Dr. Ted Stathopoulos, associate dean (academic affairs) for the faculty of engineering and computer science, said curriculum changes could be implemented for September 1996 at the earliest. He said most graduate students mostly do a fine job as teaching assistants.

"I've had grad students who have been very dedicated," he said. He added that in the past, fourth-year undergrads have conducted first-year tutorials.

Urban

continued from page 5

speculators and developers. The latter manage to convert apartments into condominiums, despite a government moratorium on doing so.

"Conversions still operate within the fringes of the law," points out Rose, adding that it is not unusual for tenants to be paid to move out.

Converted apartments and multiplexes are readily snapped up by a growing class of university educated professionals who prefer to own their homes.

This new class of highly educated professionals tend to flock around cultural centers and either establish or give a boost to related businesses, prompting new ones to move in.

It has caused such a pronounced revival of these areas and a beautifying effect that the city has attempted to reproduce its effects.

The city, under the auspices of the Societé de habitation et developpement à Montréal (SHDM), has sponsored programs to build upscale condominium complexes.

There are complexes like the Faubourg Quebec being built in Old Montreal and similar faubourgs in nearby areas. These are the government's attempt to entice people to move back to the city and to repopulate, if not the downtown area, at least adjacent areas.

Faubourgs Quebec, St. Laurent and McGill are all designed to increase the population of the downtown and to get the middle classes back into the city. "It's innovative because the government has taken quite an active role," said Rose.

The faubourgs are an attempt not just to build living quarters but entire neighborhoods. The complexes will include essential services and shopping in addition to living space.

Whether or not they will prove successful remains to be seen. They may well prove too sterile for the originators of the trend towards gentrification who were attracted both by low prices and the architectural details of older houses.

The SHDM has another project in areas of the inner ring of the city, such as NDG, Cote des Neiges and St. Henri. Plagued by crime and seemingly irreversible decay, the city has bought up rundown tenements and refurbished them.

Called Programme d'Acquisition de Logements Locatifs (PALL), it has proven to be one of the bright lights of the Doré administration.

Once renovated, the tenements are sold to non-profit organizations or to coops. They have proven successful in decreasing the crime rate in their area and getting residents involved in maintaining their neighborhoods.

Now the program may be axed due to the current administration's next budget. The government that claims as its mandate the beautifying of the city may be destroying one of the means to that very goal.

Nevertheless, despite the number of well-to-do remaining within the central core of the city, the trend is no match for the flow towards the suburbs.

Schoenauer points out that three quarters of new dwellings are built off the island. But just comparing the number units recently constructed can be misleading.

The central core of Montreal has a high density of housing, so there is little room for new homes to go up. Homes are usually built out in the west or east island.

In the central region, older homes are generally renovated, even old warehouses and factories are fixed up and converted into apartments and lofts, thus the number of homes under construction on the island appears very low.

The fact remains that despite a pronounced tendency towards gentrification, far more people are moving off the island to the suburbs.

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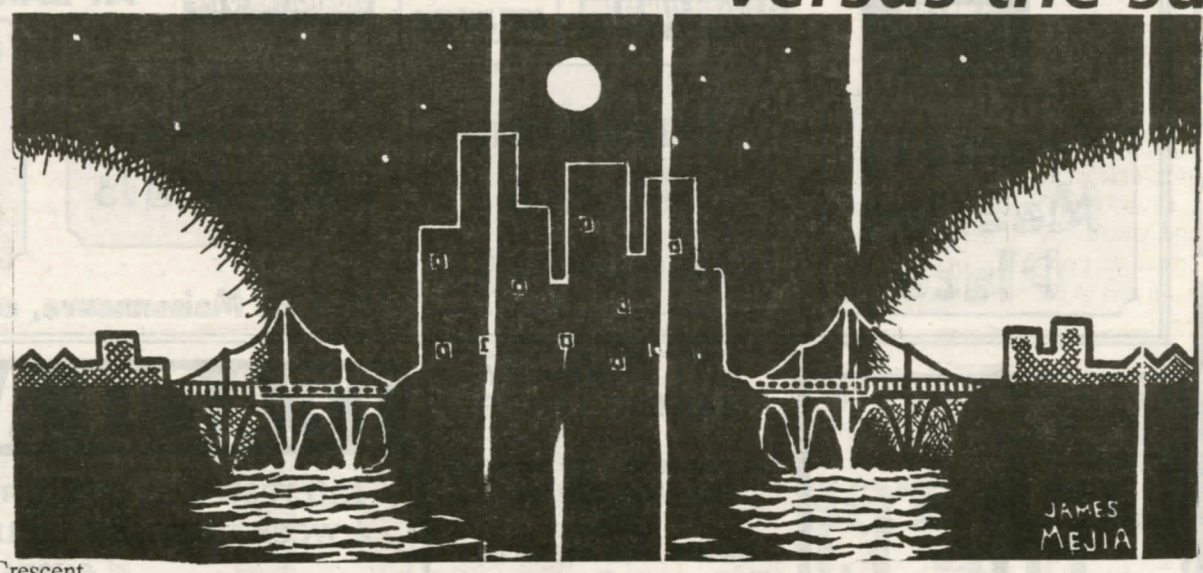
Suburbs siphon off city's core:

City dwellers are the prize in Downtown versus the suburbs

by Geneviève Napier



Burned out buildings, abandoned tenements, empty lots, and boarded up storefronts. This is the worst case scenario that some envision as Montreal sees an increase in urban flight from its downtown.Some fear that we will eventually experience the death of the city's core as urban sprawl leads more and more residents off the island.

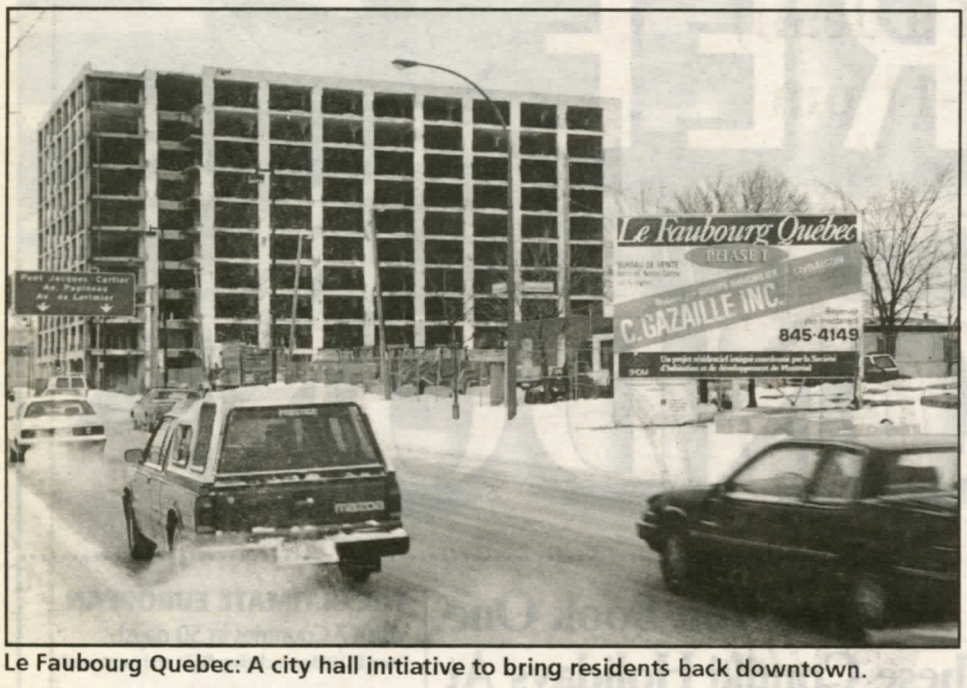
The trend invokes a vision of a dilapitated inner core surrounded by pristine suburbs, their denizens protected by a naturally occurring moat.

A brief stroll through Montreal's downtown core does little to dispel these fears. While streets such as Crescent and Bishop boast many clubs and restaurants, much of downtown is populated with empty storefronts, liquidation signs, a slew of fast food joints, peepshows, arcades, stripclubs and vacant lots.

Why do they leave?

There are many reasons to explain the shift from urban centre to suburbs off the island.

An increasingly sophisticated network of highways and bridges helped fuel the growth of suburbs during the late 60s. Affordable houses, lots of green spaces, and low taxes maintained a continuing attraction for young couples, throughout the 70s and 80s.



Le Faubourg Quebec: A city hall initiative to bring residents back downtown.

"Home ownership, the subsidization of gas prices (prices in Europe are easily two to three times higher), lower taxes and the removal of tolls are factors favoring the expansion of off-island suburbs and hastening the deterioration of the urban core," according to Norbert Schoenauer, a professor of architecture at McGill University's school of architecture.

Meanwhile, the suburbs hold many attractions, especially for young families. "There is no welfare in the suburbs, no begging, and little unemployment," points out Schoenauer.

This continuing trend towards off-island suburbs has fueled the fear of urban blight. Since off-island suburbs aren't members of the Montreal Urban Community, it is suffering from the loss of revenue from suburbs which don't pay MUC taxes.

Early signs of decay

The early signs of the city's decay, apparent during Expo '67, were quite pronounced by the time Montreal hosted the 1976 Olympics.

Between 1971 and 1976 Montreal was one of the slowest growing metropolitian regions in Canada and little appears to have changed since then. Today, Toronto and Vancouver's growth rates hover around 13 and 16 per cent respectively. Montreal's is a low 7 per cent.

As decentralization hastened the inner city's demise in the late 70s and early 80s, some of Montreal's satellite cities grew faster than the city itself.

Census figures from 1991 show the trend is continuing. Between 1986 and 1991 Montreal proper grew by a mere 0.2 per cent while the off-island suburb of Mirabel grew by a whopping 29.5 per cent.

The island has suffered a sharp decline in overall population, with the city of Montreal suffering some of the highest losses. Since the beginning of the 70s the island has lost close to 300 000 people, enough to populate a sizable city.

During the 80s it became apparent that Montreal was not going to make any major recovery. Cities follow certain patterns of growth and decay, and once stagnation sets in, rot often follows.

But it may not have to come to that, as other trends are also reshaping the island.

The downtown increasingly mimics the American tendency towards a commercial district, according to William Coffey, a professor of Geography at the University of Montreal.

"The downtown area is in really good shape considering high order services," maintains Coffey, pointing to a high concentration of finance, insurance, real estate development, management consulting, engineering and computer firms.

According to a study he conducted, the downtown area has grown in employment, mostly due to these office spaces, while the rest of Montreal has declined.

Although vacancy rates in office buildings may appear quite high on occasion, Coffey points out this typically occurs when new buildings go up but offices have not yet been leased out. He says the average vacancy rate is about 10 per cent, lower than both Toronto's and New York's vacancy rates.

Many small businesses and retail stores have disappeared in the downtown area, leaving empty storefronts behind. Although the recession has claimed a sizable proportion of these, according to Coffey, some have relocated into the area's shopping malls and the underground shopping complex.

Lack of residential space

However, their loss is not solely responsible for the downtown's overall lack of vibrancy or appeal. The problem also lies with the lack of residential space, according to Schoenauer.

"Practically no one lives downtown anymore. It makes people less concerned about the area because they don't live there, it's not their turf," he said.

The reason behind this lies in city ordinances which favored the construction of commercial and office buildings, over residential buildings.

The administration decreed that while office buildings could build up to 12 times the building site's floor area, it limited residential buildings to only six times the area.

Since residential buildings meant only half the volume, developers tended to put up office or commercial buildings to maximize profit. Consequently, few residential apartments were built.

"It was almost the same as forbidding housing downtown," Schoenauer says, although he admits this was not the city's intent.

The reasons behind keeping residential buildings smaller was to make them more appealing. Since commercial and office buildings are only occupied during the working week, their aesthetic and psychological appeal was considered less important.

This had far-reaching effects on the city. Fewer apartments meant higher rents and fewer local residential services, while towering office complexes rendered the landscape more alienating.

Revitalizing the core

However, while new office highrises do little to create a warm and inviting downtown core, they are indirectly related to a growing trend called gentrification.

Neighborhoods such as Little Burgandy, Old Montreal, St. Louis, the Latin Quarter, Mile End, Outremont, and the Plateau Mont Royal have all been revitalized by an influx of professionals who work in or near the downtown core and prefer to live close to work and cultural institutions.

The refurbished neighborhoods have fostered "a most rapid transformation to a professional class of people," according to Damaris Rose, an urban and social geographer at the INRS-Urbanisation.

Well-educated, intellectually and artistically inclined young professionals with no kids have moved into formerly decaying neighborhoods adjacent to downtown.

The low cost and charming architecture of houses in older quarters of town attracted many buyers who refurbished their homes and effectively revitalized older neighborhoods.

This trend is occurring throughout the inner core of the city, where figures show that an increasingly larger segment of the population is university graduates.

After settling an area, their activity often sparks a flurry of interest on the part of

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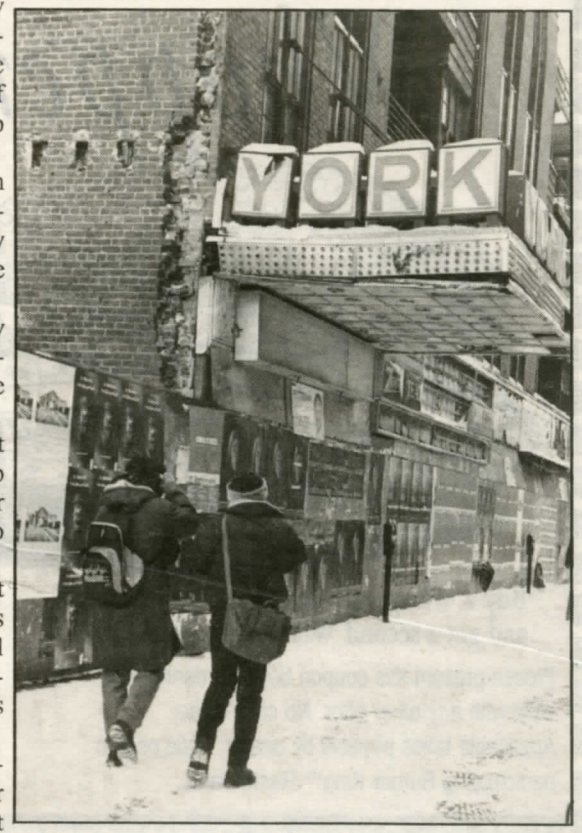

York theatre an example of urban decay.

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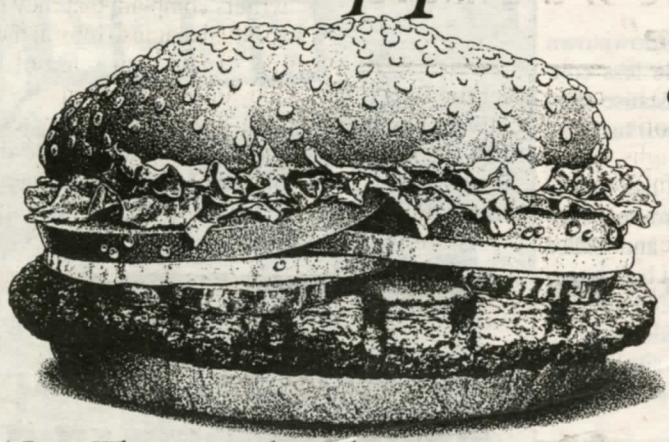

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Travelling the Highway of Cultural Celebration

by Wasela Hiyate

Tomson Highway has each foot in a different city these days. Despite a recent short-term move to Montreal to fill the role of writer-in-residence at Concordia, Highway frequently flies back to Toronto because of "business". Undoubtedly, being in the position of a multi award-winning native playwright is having its consequences.

photo by Julien Saucier

Highway hopes to make use of his residency in Montreal by becoming fluent in French, having already mastered English after his mother tongue Cree. "My goal is to know five languages before I die — I want to become fluent in Ojibway and Spanish as well." He praised European countries such as Holland and Switzerland, where most of citizens are at least bilingual. In expressing his disapproval of English Canada's aversion to learning French, he suggested they could be instead, taking advantage of the French language and enriching their own culture.

Dealing with another culture is a necessity Highway understands. Born in a tent ten feet from the dog-sled his family travelled in northern Manitoba, he was sent to an English Catholic boarding school at the age of 6 in Pas. He returned to his Cree family of 14 only during two-month summer vacations, and left the school at 15, fluent in English. Although the new language may have been imposed on him, Highway embraces it now: "I love using the language (English) and playing with it." This playfulness is evident in his play ***The Rez Sisters***, where dialogue in English and Cree are at times intertwined.

> ***"My goal is to know five languages before I die"***

During high school he lived in different white foster homes in Winnipeg. It was during this time that Highway was declared a musical prodigy; he pursued studies at the University of Western Ontario, attaining both an Honours Bachelor in Music and a Bachelor of Arts in English. It was in London that Highway had the opportunity to work with one of Canada's foremost playwrights — James Reaney. "He had a way of inspiring students to see and celebrate the beauty of everyday living," Highway explains.

He seems to have inherited Reaney's own ability to find beauty in unexpected places. ***The Rez Sisters***, about a group of native women heading to Toronto for the largest Bingo jackpot ever, was inspired by his mother's generation. In the play, Highway celebrates women who "can still party despite being subject to so much dishonesty and betrayal... they learn how to transcend tragedy." Highway has described his own mother as "a whisky-guzzling woman with balls... she smokes like a demon and plays poker until five o'clock in the morning." She is an 84 year-old grandmother who has outlived her husband and eight of her twelve children. Her fictional counterpart is Pelajia in *The Rez Sisters*. This character becomes Chief Big Rose, the first woman chief of the same reserve ***The Rez Sisters*** takes place, in Highway's latest play, ***The Rose.*** (Award-winning ***Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing***, Highway's continuation to ***The Rez Sisters***, is also set on this reserve).

After his studies in London, Highway did not touch the piano for seven years. This was a period Highway describes nonetheless as "enriching and empowering", during which he dedicated himself to "hardcore" social work. He became involved with several different native inmates in correctional centres and jails, and with children in recreational programs. Highway calls this time a kind of "springboarding", because he knew he wanted to write, but was so in awe of artists that he felt intimidated.

At the age of thirty he started writing plays. He explains his choice of genre by pointing to people like Reaney, although Michel Tremblay (***Les Belles Soeurs***) is also cited as an influence. Another factor in his writing plays is the rapport built with the audience that doesn't exist with any other genre. "Novels are very intellectual," he says, adding that "the root of literature is oral storytelling, except that the events are illustrated and transformed by actors. There is a magic to theatre that is very palpable."

No one would produce the first play Highway wrote. "Most producers don't understand the visceral, passionate, incendiary, controversial nature of the native culture," Highway admitted. He ended up hiring his brother and nephew to act in ***The Sage, the Dancer and the Fool*** along with himself, although he was already putting up the cost of production, directing and writing music for the play. Despite his lack of experience, the play had a two-week run. "God must've touched us," Highway explains.

Despite this initial success, Highway was broke and living in a basement apartment when ***The Rez Sisters***, his sixth play, became a smash hit. It won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play in 1987, and was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award in 1988. Highway attributed its success to the abilities of the producer, the money that went into the production, and perfect casting.

> ***"Most producers don't understand the visceral, passionate, incendiary, controversial nature of the native culture"***

Casting non-natives in Highway's plays might raise a few brows, but the playwright himself does not have a problem with this practice. "It is such a privilege to have a play produced," he said during the reading of his latest play, ***The Rose***. He described the shortage of native actors with enough skill and experience in Canada and that small theater companies did not have the budget to fly native actors back and forth. The important thing for Highway is that his plays are seen. Both ***The Rez Sisters*** and ***Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*** are being produced worldwide.

One of the hottest topics for debate in Canadian literature is the subject of voice appropriation. Canadian writer W.P. Kinsella of ***Shoeless Joe*** fame (the novel that the film **Field of Dreams** was based on) has come under fire for writing stories using native characters. Highway expressed his belief in "freedom of the imagination... I'm very anti-censorship." But he suggested that non-native writers should write with "respect, integrity and honesty" when writing about natives, otherwise there is "a kind of abuse going on — a continuation of the lies we experienced with the treaties."

In discussing the state of Canadian literature, Highway intimated that despite having talented writers, he felt much of contemporary writing in Canada is un-energetic and "tepid". He's heard some white writers complain that they have no spiritual magic to inform their writing. "I feel their sense of longing and an emptiness in the culture. You have access to material culture," he explains, "five different brands of potato chips, three different kinds of pop, but nothing to fill your soul.".

Upcoming Events

"Enough Said" benefit evening with **Raymond Filip, Sharon Nelson, Steve Luxton, Robert Allen, Sonja Skartstedt, Anne Stone and others** on Mon. Feb. 13, 8pm at Bistro 4, 4040 St. Laurent Blvd. Book prizes supplied by Véhicule, Muses Co., DC Books and ga press. Admission is $2 ($1 underfunded) and all proceeds go to "En Marge", a Montreal streetkids shelter.

"French stories, told in French" by **Michelle Rousseau, Pierre Renauld** on Wed. Feb. 8, 8pm. "Stories of urban proportions" by **The Fluffly Pagan Echoes** on Feb. 15, 8pm. All at The Yellow Door Coffee House, 3625 Aylmer (between Pine and Prince Arthur), 398-6243. Admission is $3 and open stage to follow.

Open stage. Poetry, spoken word, musical improv, readings every Wed. **Leah Libin** reads on Feb. 8, 8:30pm at Café Kaballah, 68 Duluth E., 284-6642.

Poet-host **Janou St-Denis** with **Alfredo Lavergne, Hugo Hazelton** at Écume des Jours, 4123A St-Denis, 284-3432.

Every Sunday storytellers recite fables and myths from around the world, 3pm at Théatre de L"Esquisse, 1650 Marie-Anne E., 527-5197.

Literary Arts is looking for creative submissions for the LGBQ issue. Deadline is February 11th, rm H649.

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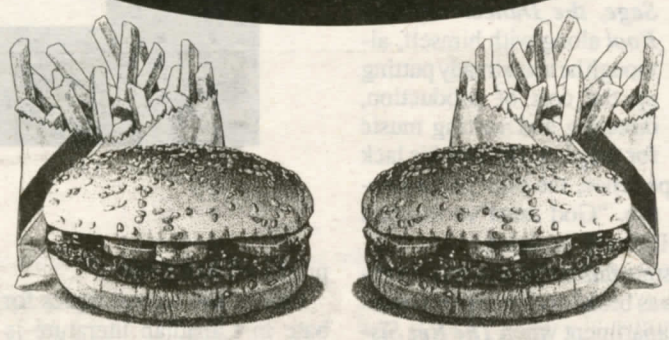

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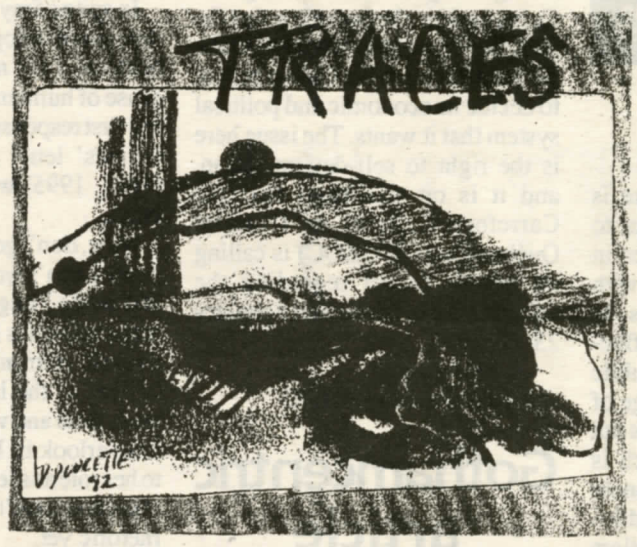
Building multi media, piece by piece

By Regan Peacock

Multimedia artwork seems to be the norm in the nineties. Everywhere you look, artists turn objects of everyday use into forms of communication. Derek Doucette goes one step further in his twenty-one piece show at La Galerie Fokus. Doucette uses styrofoam meat packaging (the ones found at the grocery store with thick slabs of raw steak clinging to them) as his background for works on paper. Obviously not the first artist to do so, Doucette has made use of otherwise garbage materials and mixed them with what is usually considered "art" (drawing, painting, and sculpture). His drawings are done with pencil, gouache (used like a watercolor), crayon, and ink, giving the three by three inch drawings an amazing sense of movement and surface depth. The images within the drawings are so abstract in some areas that it is left to the viewer to decide on how to react. Some may find objects and landscapes, others may only see the aesthetic qualities of line, form and colour, and still others may be able to see both aspects in the work. Either way the drawings are equally interesting and demanding of the viewers' senses.

Of the seventeen drawings, *Image of Inspiration* stands out as most successful. An image of an angel finds its way through the abstract and expressive lines which seem to characterize Doucette's work. The viewer is almost relieved to see this particular drawing within a wooden frame instead of the regularly used styrofoam. The solid frame creates a finished look and gives an added importance to the piece when seen in contrast with the styrofoam works.



In all of the drawings, it is the sense of movement that is so apparent. Doucette manages to create turbulence within the confines of a small paper without crowding the negative space. It was disappointing to see this lost in *Ocean Bull*, the only oil painting presented. The painting is static, and abstraction is lost to more figurative qualities of form, while Doucette's muted but still amazingly vibrant colours found in his drawings seem muddy in his painting.

The most impressive of the works is an indescribable mixed media piece, *9:07 am...the old man is snoring*. Doucette combines painted sheet metal, a pocket watch, dried leaves, a spoon, and wood to create a three-dimensional sculpture/painting that seems surreal and eerie while evading the viewers space. The colours borrowed from the objects contrast and harmonize with the dark browns, reds and greens within the piece. A streak of shimmering gold trickles down the wood and spills into the spoon. The pocket watch hangs from a perch jetting out of the center of the work and the leaf seems to balance the watch as it dangles from the opposite side. As to what this assemblage of objects all means is up to the viewer. Although Doucette talks about the insignificance of time as well as the difference between man's time (pocket watch) and nature's time (leaf), all is not lost if another interpretation is assumed.

Three sculptures make up the rest of Doucette's collection. Unlike the other artwork, the sculptures do not combine any other elements aside from found objects. Doucette creates harsh, textural, weighted forms from rocks, wood, iron, glass, and dried leaves. The natural colour of the rocks and iron are offset by one element in each sculpture: Green glass, turquoise tile and the faint orange of a dried leaf.

La Galerie Fokus, 68 Duluth east, tel:284-6642, presents Derek Doucette in a casual and inviting way. Sip some tea while pondering the elements of time or assume your own issues with Doucette's symbols. See discarded forms become recycled into art, and sense the energy of a line.

Change of Heart trade in couch, keep the van

by Daria Gamliel

On the indie scene for over a decade, **Change of Heart** has accumulated fans while losing band members. Sole original member **Ian Blurton** was about ready to scrap the whole band after former bassist **Rob Taylor** left. However, their Spinal Tap-ish lineup seems to have finally solidified.

Welcomed by snow turbulence during one of the worst cold spells in a while, Toronto's Change of Heart came and went in a gust of wind. The band was in town this past weekend, opening for the **Tragically Hip**.

With drummer **John Richardson** and bassist **John Borra** recently joining the band, new blood has been pumped into a previously disintegrating ensemble.

Partly because of the fans who've supported them for years, Blurton and Co. persevered and decided against changing the band's name, as was originally planned, because of its "tremendous drawing power," laughs keyboardist and samplemeister **Bernard Maiezza**.

"Well hopefully there's some credibility behind the name after so many years (...and anyways) Flying Testicle's already taken," Richardson offers, referring to a Japanese band both he and Maiezza admire.

Similarly, Change of Heart themselves have managed to draw admiration from other Canadian bands. People tend to look up to them because they've been on the so-called 'scene' for longer than most. Ironically, half the people the band performs to on the Hip tour were under ten years old when COH's first effort, *The Black March*, was released in '82.

Maiezza is quick to point out that even Richardson was a mere tyke at that time. The twenty-year old has only recently become familiar with COH's older albums and admits he had little knowledge of—or interest in—their music prior to joining the band.

The current configuration of COH is now on the path to broader recognition due to their recent signing to Virgin Records. Plans for future distribution in the U.S. are in the works, as well as a video for *Trigger* from last summer's *Tummysuckle*, which is being re-released on Feb. 10th.

COH's newest baby is slightly heavier overall than older material. The contrast of high and low sounds apparent on previous album *Smile*, has become more homogenous and this helps to bring together the band's sound. The band members believe there was a conscious effort on their part to tone down the use of unusual instruments and sound effects.

"We wanted to create a sound more than capture the live sound. Whereas on *Tummysuckle*, we really wanted to capture that live sound in the studio. I think it's the first COH record that adequately captures our live sound," Maiezza affirms.

photo by Daria Gamliel

This is the happy band Change of Heart.

Yet experimentation is not lost. Sampled materials have been incorporated in a subtle but effective way, to add texture to the sound. Though Maiezza has always used samples, Richardson jokes that only now has he been given the chance to explore more 'spacy' sounds. Maiezza uses his freedom in the eighteen-minute *Mardis Gras Bringdown*, which drifts into ambient waverings after the thirteenth minute.

"I was doing a ten-minute keyboard track and (the rest of the band) went out for something to eat. They came back and the song had mysteriously gone to twenty minutes when I was left alone."

Richardson interjects, "We thought we'd let Bernard loose on the last ten minutes of the record. We were holding him back the rest of the time.

Pleased to be out of the sleeping-on-people's-couches phase of touring, the keyboardist now enjoys the luxury of sharing a hotel room with one person rather than five. That status will be further upgraded when COH get their very first tour bus next week.

The guys seem anxious to have a whole bus to themselves, but unfortunately they'll soon have to share their space with **King Cobb Steelie**, whom they'll be touring with after their stint with the Hip winds down.

Maiezza confidently assures that by then "we'll have our territory well staked out. The bus will smell like us."

After playing at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas, the tour will probably swing back through Eastern Canada in April or May. But alas, the short-lived indulgence of a tour bus will then be cut.

"Yeah, we'll be back to the van," says Richardson. "Enjoy it while we can," he adds.

And as the band came and went, so will the weather. So keep a close watch for COH because they'll be back soon, hopeful after the cruel traces of winter disappear.

letters

The Link welcomes letters to the editor. We are committed to printing all letters which are not racist, sexist or homophobic and are signed. Letters should include a telephone number, be typed and 400 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Anonymity can be arranged with the editor.

Strike ?

Dear editor,

I don't understand. A strike is usually performed by workers to apply pressure on the employer, in order to enforce compliance with the demands of the employees. In some instances, it is quite an effective tactic, as in the case of public service workers, since stoppage of essential service to communities can be potentially disastrous. Such is the case when, for example, snow removal workers, ambulance drivers or airport traffic controllers strike. A student strike ... now there's an effective weapon in the battle against cuts in education reform. What kind of pressure is applied on Mr. Axworthy, when thousands of student across the country go on strike for a day?

-George Metrakos
Mechanical Engineering

Cuban embargo

Dear editor,

In last week's issue of the Link, a technical error inadvertently found its way into the article entitled: "Urge U.S to end embargo, group tells Chrétien." The Act referred to in the article is attributed to the Cuban government, but it is in fact the Torricelli Act adopted by the U.S. congress in 1992 and signed by then President George Bush.

The full name of the Act is indeed the "Cuban Democracy Act to promote a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba through the application of appropriate pressures on the Cuban government and support for the Cuban people." However, it was adopted by the U.S. and it openly declares that the Cuban people and its government have to give up the path they have chosen and instead take up the US model. the "appropriate pressures" are in fact the attempts by the U.S. to stop food, medicine and other necessities from reaching Cuba.

This policy has been applied by the U.S. since the Cuban Revolution. it stems from the period going back to the end of the 19th century when the Americans declared in somewhat less subtle terms that its goal was to "impose a harsh blockade so that hunger and its constant companion, disease, undermine the peaceful population and decimate the Cuban army...in order to annex the Pearl of the Antilles". (J.C. Breckenridge, U.S. Undersecretary of War, December 24, 1897)

Regarding the blockade against Cuba, I said in the interview that the U.S. has no right to blockade Cuba because it is up to the Cuban people to decide its economic and political system that it wants. The issue here is the right to self-determination, and it is on this basis that the Carrefour Culturel de l'Amitié Québec-Cuba (CCAQC) is calling on people to act regarding the Clinton visit to Ottawa on February 23-24.

-Arnold August
Vice-President CCAQC

Gothamcentric article refined

Dear editor,

Flattered as I was by the *gothamcentric* character of the article, "Conceiving the Alternative Through the Spoken Word," printed in the Link, Jan. 24, '95, I'd like to suggest a few retraction/correction/clarifications.

Firstly, I was invited to take over managing-editor of Pawn to Infinity some months ago by its true "creator, editor and publisher," Michael Genereux. The "eclectic literary magazine" is morphing into PAWN, a broader-based cultural publication and will see the news stands in March.

As for the SpokenWord and its articulation at Bistro 4: language can represent life, inaccurately at best. Images can represent life, inaccurately at best. Representation is problematic; I like to think there exists, for those crowding into the spaces between words and images at Bistro 4, a presentation zone, a special if ephemeral type of community...enough said.

-Lee Gotham

Open Letter To the Concordia Proletariat:

In spite of my lifelong struggle in defense of the oppressed and downtrodden, I am not a guy without a sense of humour. And so it was that my first response upon reading Lana Grimes' letter to the Concordian (Feb1, 1995) was a heartfelt belly laugh.

Now, don't get me wrong–I don't doubt Lana's working class origins, and while I might quibble with her melodramatics (not to mention the overall patronizing tone) of "a 'strike' is the last recourse of the powerless and weak," I was willing to overlook it. Lana is clearly new to her role as a leader of the working class and hasn't got a handle on the rhetoric yet.

Give her time; she's a quick study.

The question that arises for me, however, is: if a strike is indeed such a powerful and vital tool of "the powerless and the weak," what then is a union, if not an organization of working people to defend themselves from just the kind of oppressive activity Lana is addressing?

The question here is not rhetorical. Lana is currently involved in a more than passing way with the CSU's attempt to have its employees' union, the Concordia University Students' Association Employees Union (CUSEAU), decertified.

Could it be that Lana confuses the interests of the working class with her own, as so often happens in these heady days in which we live?

Could it be that Lana attempts to manipulate whatever rhetoric is useful to her needs at any given time?

Have I simply misunderstood everything and is Lana's role at the CSU part of the struggle "in the belly of the beast?"

Is it the "long march through the institutions" which Lana is leading?

Or is Lana simply full of shit?

Lana, the people demand answers.

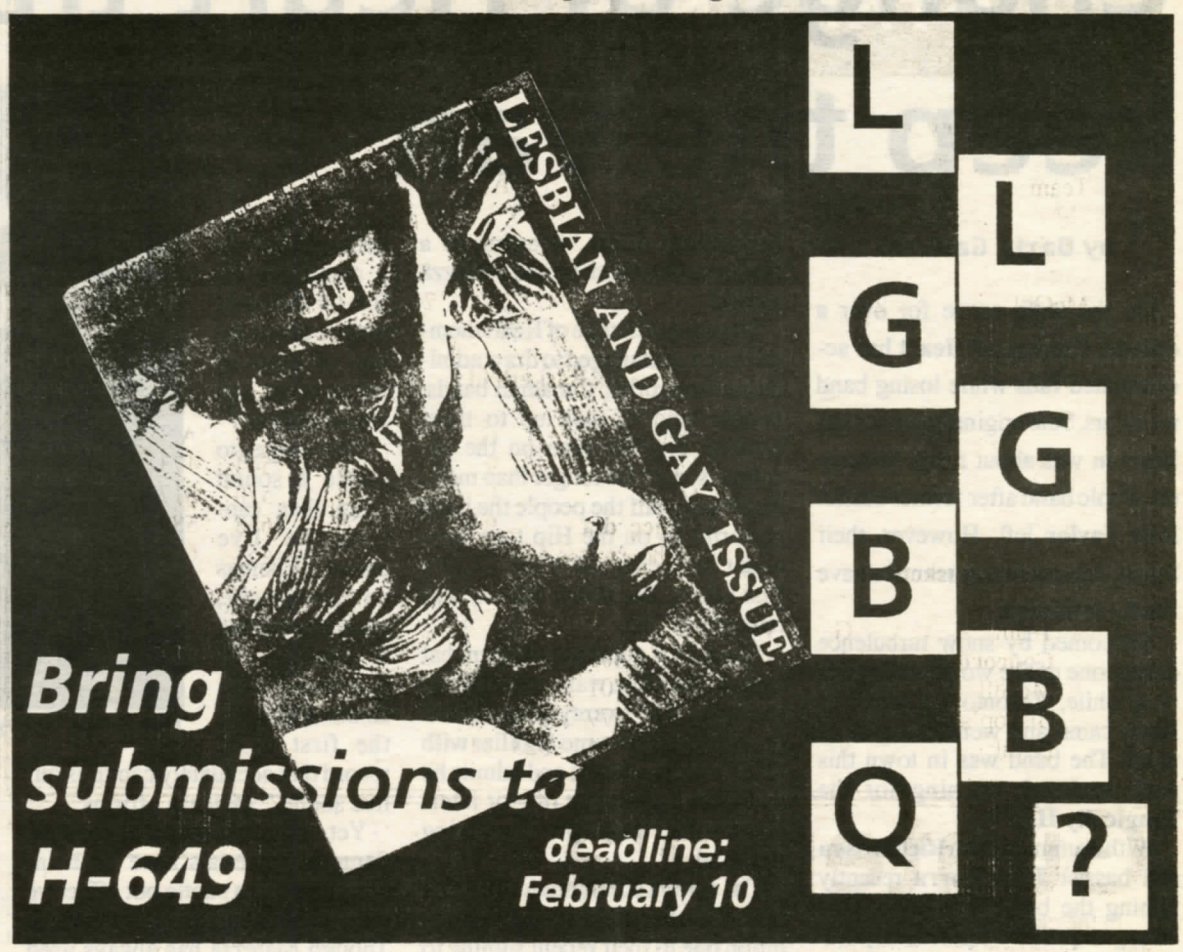
To hesitate now is to risk feeling the cold blade of the wrath of the proletariat on your throat.

HASTA LA PASTA!!!

LA LUNCHA CONTINUA!!!

Michael Ryan

(on behalf of the one-third of CUSAEU's former president who never sold out.)



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Montreal, Quebec. H3G 1M8
editorial: 848-7405• business: 848-7406
fax: 848-4540
e-mail: thelink@alcor.concordia.ca

editor Ingrid Hein
production manager Michelle Loubert (interim)
news editors Jennifer Ditchburn, Carol McQueen
features editor Paul Hainsworth
literary editor Connie C. Wu(interim)
archivist Daria Gamliel
sports editor Marie-Chantal Côté
fringe arts editors Sean Moore, Jon Richler
photo editor Justin Rochefort
graphics editor Open
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business manager Alice O'Brien
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advertising sales Anuska Garcia, Charlene Nero
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Contributors
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Women Stingers destroy visiting teams

by Rob Bertrand

For a third consecutive year, Concordia's women's hockey team showed that it was one of the best in the country by crushing every team standing in its way.

The Stingers proved that not being in a competitive league didn't affect its high-calibra level of play, by winning the championship of the tournament they hosted over the weekend.

The weather outside was cold and unforgiving. And as teams as far away as New Hampshire ventured to Montreal to take part in Concordia's annual Theresa Humes women's hockey tournament, they didn't anticipate that an even colder reception was awaiting for them inside.

The Stingers were not friendly hosts, destroying each team that came before them.

"I didn't think that we would dominate as much as we did," explained Stimgers' headcoach Les Lawton. "We played with a lot of depth, we were a lot stronger than the other teams, we showed more emotion."

The first victim was Queen's. Final score: Concordia 13, Queen's 1. Then came the Northeastern Huskies. Final score: Concordia 8, Huskies 2. Then, in the final against the University of New Hampshire, it was more of the same. Final score: Concordia 7, UNH 1.

After the game, the Stingers were all talking about how it wasn't the play of individuals that made the difference, but a total team effort.

And they were right. The Stingers blanketed their opponents' nets with 138 shots in the three games, while allowing a mere 33. They were dominating throughout the tournament.

But there were players who stood out, including, Stingers. Cammi Granato whose play gave her the tournament MVP title. Kellie Rae Ryan and Michelle Johansson were named as the two defensive members of the tournament all-star team, while tournament leading scorer Nancy Deschamps was named on the forward line.

The other teams left town after the tournament and probably couldn't get out of here fast enough for their own good. They'll remember the 1995 edition of the Theresa Humes Women's Hockey Tournament as being the harshest one in memory.

photo by Justin Rochefort

The women's hockey team in action at the Theresa Humes tournament.

photo by Justin Rochefort

The stingers crushed visiting teams over the weekend.

STANDINGS

Men's Hockey

Team	G	W	L	T	F	A	P
UQTR	21	17	1	3	131	51	37
Ottawa	20	12	6	2	82	53	26
Concordia 19	**10**	**6**	**3**	**6**	**5**	**68**	**23**
McGill	20	10	9	1	94	79	21

Women's Basketball

Team	G	W	L	F	A	P
Laval	9	6	3	544	473	12
McGill	9	6	3	570	517	12
Concordia	**9**	**4**	**5**	**638**	**589**	**8**
Bishop's	9	2	7	451	624	4

Men's Basketball

Team	G	W	L	F	A	P
Concordia	**9**	**8**	**1**	**803**	**632**	**16**
McGill	9	6	3	701	640	12
Bishop's	9	4	5	679	674	8
Laval	9	0	9	634	823	0

Sports briefs

Basketball

•In basketball, with a really strong offence, the Stingers women's team improved its record to 4-5 with a 72-59 win over Laval last Friday. Player Yolaine Massé of Laval, who averages 14-15 points, scored four points.

"The best part of the game was keeping Massé under five points and running a fast break," said Stingers' Coach Mike Hickey.

The Stingers had an 8-10 point lead for most of the first half.

With 10 minutes to go in the game, the Stingers were up 52-34, when Laval got another 9 points with eight minutes left. In the last four minutes of the game, The Stingers scored 12 more points. They scored the next eight points before the game was over.

According to Hickey, Stingers' Point Guard Linda Benjamin showed very good leadership. Guard Sharon Sandy as well as post Patricia Demers, both played a good defense, scoring fifteen points each.

•The Stingers men's team (8-1) trounced the Rouge et Or 125-71 to give Concordia a sweep of the doubleheader at Loyola Gym.

Men's Hockey

The 10-6-3 Stingers swept their opposition over the weekend, doubling up on Laurentian 4-2 on Saturday and beating Ryerson 6-2 the next day. The Stingers, third in the Far East Division with 23 points, gained some ground on the second-place Ottawa Gee-Gees who were 1-and-1 over the weekend.

- Shira Katz and Danny Chan

Guatemala Studies

In the early 1980s, the Guatemalan government adopted a "Scorched Earth" policy. Many men were killed and, according to Schibli, over 400 villages "were just wiped off the map."

Conavigua helps widows sustain themselves, manage and own property and take care of their families. They are strong proponents of social change and are against the military's overpowering presence in Guatemala.

They also tend to what Schibli referred to as "clandestine graves," unmarked mass graves filled with the bodies of murdered people.

Conavigua digs up these bodies and gives them proper burials. Last year during another of the committee's trips, Conavigua reburied 23 bodies.

Since 1977, Schibli has been to Guatemala regularly.

He said the repression was as bad as today when he went in 1977 because Guatemala was still recovering from an earthquake it had suffered the year before.

But, Schibli noted, 1977 was the perfect opportunity for the government to locate the leaders of local aid groups and social organizations—people who were opposed to the government.

Some of them eventually went missing or were found murdered.

The Social Justice Committee will be presenting a video of their trip Thursday night at Ascension Church in Westmount on the corner of Sherbrooke and Kitchener at 7:30. The public is invited to attend.

that the sizeable contributions received by some programs will free up funds for others without external support.

But Acting Dean of Arts Harold Waller has already dashed that hope. Claiming that external donations do not effect the Faculty's internal operation budget, he insisted that redistributing the faculty's existing funds would be impossible.

"This money came from outside. It doesn't free up any money for anything else. We don't have enough money for our departments as things stand. Funds are short all around," said Waller.

He refused to release a copy of the budget detailing the distribution of resources within the Faculty.

Beyene was not impressed. "It's always said that funds are short all around but it's a question of priority. It has become explicit that McGill has absolutely no interest in African Studies, otherwise they would work as hard to solicit funds as they do for other programs," she said.

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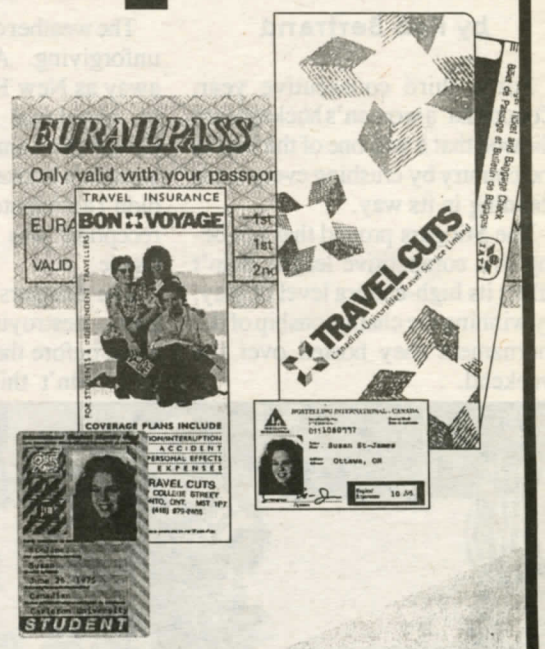

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